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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/510,977	10/13/2004	Masaaki Yamauchi	2004_1445A	6157
513	7590	09/29/2005	EXAMINER	
WENDEROTH, LIND & PONACK, L.L.P.			TRAN, THUY V	
2033 K STREET N. W.			ART UNIT	
SUITE 800			PAPER NUMBER	
WASHINGTON, DC 20006-1021			2821	

DATE MAILED: 09/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/510,977

Applicant(s)

YAMAUCHI ET AL.

Examiner

Thuy V. Tran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 October 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 October 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>10/13/2004</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This is a response to the Applicants' filing on 10/13/2004. In virtue of this filing, claims 1-3 are currently presented in the instant application.

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Inventorship

2. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Information Disclosure Statement

3. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 10/13/2004 is in compliance with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.97. Accordingly, the information disclosure statement is being considered by the examiner.

Drawings

4. The drawings submitted on 10/13/2004 are accepted.

Claim Objections/ Minor Informalities

5. Claims 1-3 are objected to because of the following informalities:

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Claim 1, line 5, --a-- should be inserted between “applying” and “voltage”;

Claim 2, line 5, --a-- should be inserted between “applying” and “voltage”;

Claim 2, line 11, “..” should be replaced with ---; and

Claim 3, line 3, --a-- should be inserted between “applying” and “voltage”.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

7. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Kazuyuki et al. (JP-2002-075208).

With respect to claim 1, Kazuyuki et al. discloses, in Figs. 1 and 3-4, a plasma display panel in which a dielectric layer [103] is disposed so as to cover a display electrode formed of a pair of a scan electrode [102a] and a sustain electrode [102b], and a protecting layer [104] is formed on the dielectric layer [103] so as to form an inherent discharge dent on the protecting layer [104] by applying a voltage having an alternate voltage component (see Fig. 3) at least between the scan electrode [102a] and the sustain electrode [102b]. Furthermore, because the claimed structure is fully met by Kazuyuki et al., the recited result “the discharge dent on the side of the sustain electrode has a width narrower than the discharge dent on the side of the scan electrode” would necessarily be inherent in Kazuyuki et al..

With respect to claim 2, Kazuyuki et al. discloses, in Figs. 1 and 3-4, a plasma display panel in which a dielectric layer [103] is disposed so as to cover a display electrode formed of a pair of a scan electrode [102a] and a sustain electrode [102b], and a protecting layer [104] is formed on the dielectric layer [103], and the plasma display panel in which an aging discharge is performed so as to form an inherent discharge dent on the protecting layer [104] by applying a voltage having an alternate voltage component (see Fig. 3) at least between the scan electrode [102a] and the sustain electrode [102b]. Furthermore, because the claimed structure is fully met by Kazuyuki et al., the recited result “wherein, as for the discharge dent formed on the sustain electrode-side, the discharge dent formed in an area away from the scan electrode paired with the sustain electrode as the display electrode has a depth shallower than the discharge dent formed in an area close to the scan electrode paired with the sustain electrode as the display electrode” would necessarily be inherent in Kazuyuki et al..

With respect to claim 3, Kazuyuki et al. discloses, in Figs. 1 and 3-4, a method of aging a plasma display panel having a scan electrode [102a], a sustain electrode [102b], and a data electrode [202]; the aging method having an aging process in which an aging discharge is performed by applying a voltage having an alternate voltage component (see Fig. 3) at least between the scan electrode [102a] and the sustain electrode [102b], wherein a trailing edge of a waveform of voltage applied to the sustain electrode [102b] (see Fig. 1) has a mild slope (or wherein at least one of a leading edge of a waveform of voltage applied to the scan electrode and a trailing edge of a waveform of voltage applied to the sustain electrode has a mild slope as claimed).

Citation of relevant prior art

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8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Prior art Kado et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,761,605 B2) discloses a plasma display panel.

Prior art Kado et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,666,738 B1) discloses a plasma display panel.

Prior art Whang et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,373,195 B1) discloses an AC plasma display panel.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1828. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 AM -5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

09/28/2005



THUY V. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER